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September 16, 2003

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of USUI, Minoru, TSUKADA, Kenji, KANAYA, Munehide,  
TAMURA, Noboru  
LIQUID CONSUMPTION STATUS DETECTING METHOD, LIQUID  
CONTAINER, AND INK CARTRIDGE  
Assignee: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**  
Our Ref: Q77369



Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 09/574,015 (Confirmation No. 6777) filed May 19, 2000 of USUI, Minoru, TSUKADA, Kenji, KANAYA, Munehide, TAMURA, Noboru entitled LIQUID CONSUMPTION STATUS DETECTING METHOD, LIQUID CONTAINER, AND INK CARTRIDGE.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract, 35 sheet(s) of drawings, and a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also, submitted herewith is an IDS and a Proprietary IDS.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 2856.

Priority is claimed from:

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Application No</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Japan          | 11-139683             | May 20, 1999       |
| Japan          | 11-147538             | May 27, 1999       |
| Japan          | 11-256522             | September 10, 1999 |

The priority documents were filed in parent Application No. 09/574,015.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

|                    |         |   |  |   |         |   |          |
|--------------------|---------|---|--|---|---------|---|----------|
| Total claims       | 15 - 20 | = |  | x | \$18.00 | = | \$300.00 |
| Independent claims | 1 - 3   | = |  | x | \$84.00 | = | \$84.00  |
| Base Fee           |         |   |  |   |         |   | \$750.00 |

**TOTAL FILING FEE** \$750.00



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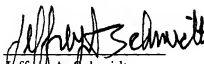
Atty. Docket: Q77369

A check for the statutory fee of \$750.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By   
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